

TOURISM & The COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

[Url:www.equitabletourism.org](http://www.equitabletourism.org)

Why Tourism is on every Government's agenda

- Seen as an engine for economic growth
- Used as a leverage for infrastructure development
- High return on investment
- Promoted as pollution free industry-green, soft

The other side of tourism

Tourism Impacts

- ECONOMIC
- SOCIAL
- CULTURAL
- ENVIRONMENT
- POLITICAL

Most vulnerable

- A child in the context of tourism
- Forms of Exploitation:
 - Sexual exploitation of children
 - Child labour & tourism
 - Child trafficking & tourism
 - Child Pornography

What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Prostitution of Children
- Child Pornography
- Trafficking in Children
- Child Sex Tourism
- Child Marriage

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

EQUATIONS CALLS FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN
TOURISM AND HOLDS GOVERNMENTS, TOURISM
PROMOTERS AND INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ENSURING THAT TOURISM IS JUST,
NON-EXPLOITATIVE AND EQUITABLE



TOURISM EXPLOITS CHILDREN

Tourism development is highly unregulated and not monitored for its negative impacts. A little known and even less acknowledged impact is that on children. Tourism development without responsibility, accountability and protective measures has led to sexual exploitation of children, trafficking, and increase in child labour.



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TOURISM & CHILD

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual Exploitation of children in Tourism

- Organized child sex tourism
- Paedophiles
- Child Pornography
- Not been seriously tackled or discussed openly

WHAT HAS CHANGED

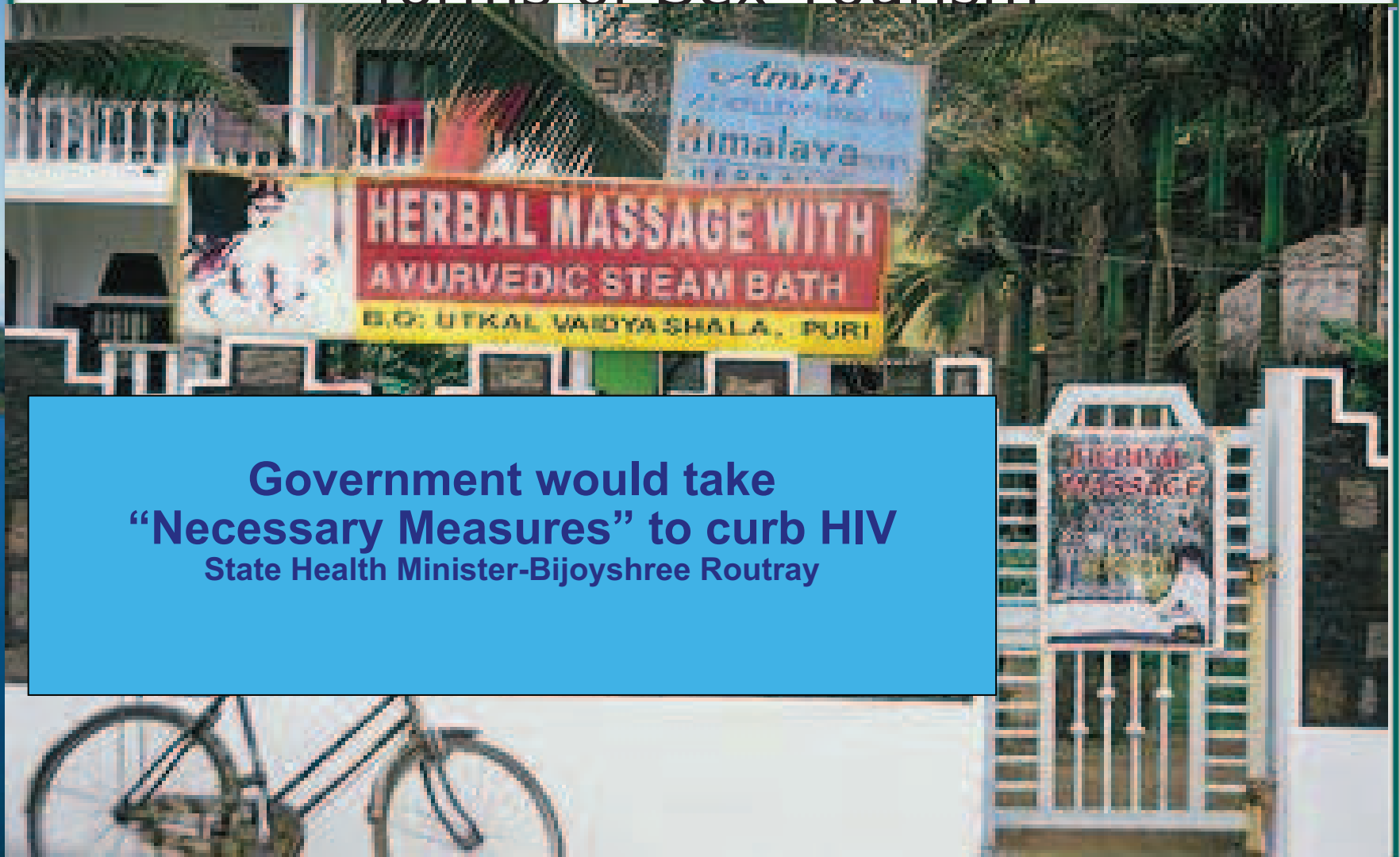
Willingness to accept and acknowledge these impacts

Difference between Sexual Exploitation & Sexual Abuse

Make use of a child as a sexual object

- Child being used as a object of gratification for the abuser's sexual needs
- Does not necessarily involve bodily contact between abuser and child
- Adult watching a child undressed or forcing to have sex with one another etc while the abuser observes or films such activities
- Becomes a sexual object as well as a commodity
- The remuneration factor
- Child labour

Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the forms of Sex Tourism



**Government would take
“Necessary Measures” to curb HIV**
State Health Minister-Bijoyshree Routray

.More than 13-19 million children working in the tourism sector

.So visible yet "unnoticed" and unreported

.It damages a child physical, mental, social and psychological development

.Extremely exploitative working conditions

.Long working hours, cheap labour, low pay, sexual abuse, physical abuse & psychological trauma

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India has the distinction of having the largest number of working children in the world today. It is common to see children working in abysmal conditions in restaurants and shacks, selling curios and trinkets, beach boys and girls, rag pickers, tourist guides, or begging rich tourists for money. Because of their physical and economic vulnerability most of these children end up in a life of servitude, suffering sexual as well as physical exploitation.


Equations

Illustration - Smriti Chanchani for Going to School

TOURISM &

CHILD LABOUR



A-anguished
B-bonded
C-crushed
D-defeated
E-exploited



- Tourism has contributed to increase in child trafficking
- Forced and more vulnerable
- Demand for work that is - Dirty, Dangerous or Degrading
- Increase in HIV/AIDS

RID TOURISM OF CHILD ABUSE



Equations

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*How **does** CSE **affect** Children?*

- Denies a child her/her childhood and youth
- Trauma and lack of dignity
- Serious physical and emotional trauma in form of :
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Spiritual,
 - Emotional and Social Development
 - Well-being of a child
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Physical Violence

Tourism & Legislative Measures

- The Goa Children's Act 2003, which addresses the issue of child exploitation (including through tourism) needs strict implementation.
- The ban of child labour in domestic and hospitality sector effective 10th October 2006

**The Notification is an important step in all over strategy
of eradicating child labour,
We listed and emphasized these two major
Categories in the hazardous work segment as these occupation
are fairly widespread and also visible**

Shahis Meezan, Director, Child Labour Division, Ministry of Labour and Employment

Why have we not done enough?

- International and Inter-state cooperation
- Lacunae in the legal systems
- Weak implementation of the law
- Loopholes in Legislations
- Lack of public awareness and acknowledgment of the problem

We Civil Society need to call for

.....

- Government to be serious and priorities tackling this issue
 - Inter-departmental collaboration
 - Responsible plan of action and monitoring
 - Stronger policy and legislative provisions
- Tourism Industry to be responsible & accountable
- Civil Society Organization to work together
- Wider public to mobilise and demand for serious action to stop exploitation of the child. Each of us to feel morally responsible

Action of CSO on: Offences Against Children Bill

- The proposed Bill
- Article from Times of India
- Several version of the bill
- Transparency and public participation
- Not available on the website
- Letter to the Minister
- Letter to the Parliamentary Forum on Children
- Letter to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture



say **NO** to **TOURISM**
that exploits the child



Equations

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Thank you

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